



Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie  
Welcome Center Hours 8 am-4:30 pm (Mon-Sat)

30239 South State Route 53

Wilmington, IL 60481

Phone: 815-423-6370

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/midewin>

## Midewin Meadowlark Messenger June 2011

### Here's what the bird is bringin'

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Hooray, The Volunteer webpage is now a quick link on our home page!

## ☆ Calendar of Volunteer Workdays/ Events for June

Tours/presentations

Volunteer workdays






Training workshops

Special Events



Children are always welcome, but these are more appropriate activities

DATE	TIME	MEETING LOCATION	ACTIVITY
4 June Saturday	8:00am-10:00am	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Public Tour</a> : Birds at Midewin (Eastside) <i>Car caravan led by interpreter, John Baxter</i>
4 June Saturday	10:00am-1:30pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Public Heritage Tour</a> : Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant, <i>Car caravan led by interpreter Lorin Schab</i>
7 June Tuesday	8:30-3:30 (Half day option)	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Plants of Concern Monitoring</a> : Quarterman's Hedgehyssop & Glade Quillwort, New volunteers encouraged, call for details
8 June Wednesday	8:30-3:30 (Half day option)	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Plants of Concern Monitoring</a> : Quarterman's Hedgehyssop & Glade Quillwort, New volunteers encouraged, call for details
9 June Thursday	9:00am- 12:30pm	Midewin SO Horticulture Building	<b>TWI (The Wetlands Initiative) Workday</b> ; installing prairie & wetland plugs in Grant Creek restoration project, best for ages 7 and up
10 June Friday	8:30-3:30 (Half day option)	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Plants of Concern Monitoring</a> : Quarterman's Hedgehyssop & Glade Quillwort, New volunteers encouraged, call for details
<b>JUNE 11, NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY</b>			
11 June Saturday	9:00am- 2:30pm	Midewin SO Horticulture Building	Installing wetland plant plugs in a habitat restoration project, best for ages 7 and up

<b>11 June Saturday</b> 	10:00am-3:00pm	Off-site Little Red Schoolhouse	Leave No Child Inside Event <i>Midewin booth staffed by interpreters Julie Kastel &amp; Laura Haldeman</i>
<b>11 June Saturday</b> 	12:30pm-3:30pm	Midewin Iron Bridge Trailhead	Civil War 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event People in period costumes will tell the story of the Civil War and the Underground Railroad through demonstrations, stories, poetry and song.
<b>11 June Saturday</b>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Midewin Iron Bridge Trailhead	<a href="#">Public Tour</a> : Birds, Bridges and Bunkers Hike <i>Led by interpreter Jerry Heinrich</i>
<b>16 June Thursday</b> 	9:00am- 2:30pm	Midewin SO Horticulture Building	Installing wetland plant plugs in a habitat restoration project, best for ages 7 and up
<b>18 June Saturday</b>	8:00am-10:00am	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Public Tour</a> : Birds at Midewin (Westside) <i>Car caravan led by interpreter, John Baxter</i>
<b>18 June Saturday</b>	9:45am-12:30pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Public Tour</a> : Restoration in Progress (The Wetlands Initiative). Please bring hiking boots. <i>Led by TWI's Senior Ecologist Dr. Gary Sullivan</i>
<b>18 June Saturday</b>	10am-Noon	Midewin South Gate (call for directions)	<a href="#">Public Tour</a> : Midewin by Horseback (bring your own horse), <i>Led by interpreters Mike &amp; Trish Delucas, Donna &amp; Greg Malanca</i>
<b>25 June Saturday</b> 	9:00am- 2:30pm	Midewin SO River Road Seedbeds	Installing prairie plant plugs at River Road seed beds
<b>25 June Saturday</b>	10:00am-Noon	Midewin SO Welcome Center	Midewin for Kids: Tracking Prairie Animals <i>Led by EE Specialist Wendy Tresouthick</i>
<b>25 June Saturday</b>	3:00pm-5:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Public Heritage Tour</a> : Maple Hill & Klingler Cemeteries, <i>Led by interpreters Linda Konley &amp; Lorin Schab</i>
<b>25 June Saturday</b> 	6:00pm-8:00pm	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Public Tour</a> : Bike by Twilight (Fat tire or hybrid tire recommended), <i>Led by interpreters Connie Heinrich &amp; Larry Lottino</i>
<b>28 June Tuesday</b>	8:30-3:30 (Half day option)	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Plants of Concern Monitoring</a> : Hill's thistle, New volunteers encouraged, call for details
<b>29 June Wednesday</b>	8:30-3:30 (Half day option)	Midewin SO Welcome Center	<a href="#">Plants of Concern Monitoring</a> : Hill's thistle, New volunteers encouraged, call for details
<b>30 June Thursday</b>	8:00am- 12:30pm	Midewin SO Horticulture Building	Wild Seed marking & collecting

For more information about the events listed or to RSVP contact Allison Cisneros, Volunteer Coordinator at 815-423-2149 or [amcisneros@fs.fed.us](mailto:amcisneros@fs.fed.us).

Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend an event allows Midewin staff to better organize the event, and we can inform you of any changes or cancellations. Midewin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied and supervised by a parent, guardian. Youth groups must come with chaperones. Please do not bring pets to workdays.

[Click for Directions:](#)  
[Supervisors Office \(SO\)](#)  
[and River Road Seedbeds](#)



## ☆ National Trails Day, June 4

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There are 33 miles of trails available at Midewin for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Check out the link below and pick a trail.

You may consider the Prairie Creek Woods trail for a savanna/woodland hike or the West Side Trail for bike ride.

[Midewin Trail Map](#)

## ☆ From Dry to Wet, Removing Drain Tiles: Photo Gallery

Midewin has had huge support from the Wetlands Initiative since 1997 in returning wetlands from degraded habitat.

Some of you have even volunteered by planting native wetland plants in this area and other wetland restorations. However, we don't always see the process that allows the water to return, so these wetlands can function again.

Check out this great photo gallery featuring the 470 acre, Grant Creek restoration project on Midewin.

Link to view this Photo Gallery created by The Wetlands Initiative (14 photos w/captions):

[From Dry to Wet:  
Removing Drain Tiles](#)

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## Hydrology Highlights

Since Fall 2006, Midewin has completed drain tile inventories for 1,324 acres (over 14 miles).

Tile inventories are used for project planning, restoration, historical record, and state law purposes.

Since 2007, Midewin has completed wetland delineation surveys for 1,019 acres.

Delineation surveys are used for project planning and restoration purposes.

## ☆ Celebrate Wetlands by Lending a Hand

Join us at one of our wetland workdays in June. We will be adding more native plants to our wetland restorations.

RSVP and Meet us at the Horticulture Building.

- Thursday, June 9 from 9-12:30, Hosted by The Wetlands Initiative
- Saturday, June 11 from 9-2:30, National Get Outdoors Day
- Thursday, June 16 from 9- 2:30
- Saturday, June 18 from 9:45- 12:30, **Tour: Restoration in Progress** led by Gary Sullivan of The Wetlands Initiative. Meet at the Welcome Center for a car caravan.



## ☆ Picnic for the Planet, Plan C

We never said Picnic for the 'non-stormy, only warm & sunny' Planet. After all, no rain...no food.

So we quickly went from plan A to Plan B, buzzed right over Plan B into Plan C. This meant we were indoors listening to nature sounds on speakers with photos on a projector screen. Hey, it's the best I could offer.

Several picnickers and staff came to celebrate anyway so I certainly wasn't alone. After lunch we went outdoors and kept warm during a flying disc challenge.



Who said this meter-quadrat has to be used for vegetation monitoring?



Picnickers (L to R) Jerry Heinrich, Me (Allison), Andy Neill Jr., with family Justine, Collin, Kendra, Andy Neill Sr. and Christine Riley, in green.

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## ☆ Good Riddance Garlic Mustard!

17 volunteers, 51 hours, and 15 bags later....



Debbie Poggi with daughter Jessica; and Jesse Raczynski (right) among others enjoyed removing this nasty thug. They also enjoyed the beautiful weather and wildlife such as Dekay's brown snakes, bluebells, spring beauties, violets and plenty of birds. We really worked up an appetite and thanks to Jerry Heinrich, we had a grilled lunch waiting for us. Hmm, I wonder what garlic mustard tastes like on a burger...

Mike Sula, a Chicago Reader writer for the Food and Drink section also wondered the culinary value of garlic mustard. So he drove to Midewin to pick some for a culinary challenge.

Here are his articles:

1. [Garlic mustard threatens habitats across the country. One response? Weed it and eat it.](#)
2. [Cocktail Challenge: Sable's Mike Ryan tackles garlic mustard](#)



## ☆ Botany Program seeks more volunteers!!!

*Submitted by Eric Ulaszek, Midewin Horticulturist*

Interested in helping monitor rare plants and the progress of our habitat restorations?

You don't know many wild plants, but you're interested? But there's just too much to learn, it's too intimidating?

Unfortunately, there is no easy way around it - learning to identify even the 100-150 typical prairie plants takes time, let alone all the weeds, woodland plants, and trees. But we can help. Introducing 'Botany Program Beginnings' for interested volunteers, beginners wanting to start learning local native plants.

- Learn what a scientific name is, what it means, and with my help, how to mis-pronounce it!
- What are the best features for identifying plants?
- How to eliminate the choices when identifying unknown plants.
- Plant families - and why knowing them helps identify plants.
- What are the best references, guides & websites for identifying plants?
- How to use these tools!

Open to all volunteers, and for experienced botany program participants that need a review session.

Remember, there's just too much to learn about our local plants to retain from one session. What's the best way? Pick up a little bit each time, start laying down a mental outline that will help develop learning paths in your brain. Once you've started, you'll be able to use them to add more. Just don't expect to learn all the relevant wild plants in 1-2 years. I'm still learning this stuff, too, after more than three decades working on plant identification!

In any session, at some time your brain will be 'full'. You just can't retain any more. Don't even try, you'll just lose what you just picked up. Instead, relax, and just enjoy being outdoors with neat wild plants, the occasional wildlife, and people. And if you're taking notes, you just can't get it all, either. Don't freak if you haven't written down every single clue about identifying some rare sedge.

Remember, whether monitoring rare plants or sampling a prairie restoration, you'll be working in a group. You'll have a collective memory and experience to pull from, and what's important, you'll also learn those tricks used by more experienced participants to memorize plant names and identification cues.

Contact Allison Cisneros at 815.423.2149 or [amcisneros@fs.fed.us](mailto:amcisneros@fs.fed.us) for more details and possible dates.

## ☆ Check it Out: Midewin Restoration Blog

Writer, preservationist and core volunteer, Arthur Melville Pearson has started a terrific Blog about Midewin. You should definitely check this out!

In Arthur's words,

'I first began volunteering at Midewin soon after its establishment in 1996. In 2010, with the cooperation of the USDA Forest Service, I decided to use my volunteer experiences as a lens through which to more deeply explore Midewin's multi-faceted history. This blog is the on-line diary of my experiences, my research, my observations. At the end of this year, I'll build upon them to write a book celebrating the once and future tallgrass prairie (and everything that came in between) of Midewin.'

<http://midewinrestoration.net/>



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